

28. OBSERVATIONS ON THE BANDED KRAIT,
BUNGARUS FASCIATUS

Like many other Indian snakes, information on the various ethological aspects of the Banded Krait is very scanty (Whitaker 1982) I observed a Banded Krait in the vicinity of a pond at Nazramohamda (Darbhanga District, Bihar) on 20th July, 1984. The snake was apparently full grown and had bright and beautiful yellow and black bands quite conspicuous in the grassy background. Several village boys had already seen the snake before I saw it and the snake appeared a little nervous due to their presence. I observed the snake from 0815 to 0930 hrs and whenever I approached closely for photographing, the snake hissed loudly but did not strike at any

time. Finally it disappeared into the thick grass.

The local people report to this snake as a resident in this locality seen at times with young.

The snake is locally known as 'Ganguar' and as mentioned by Biswas (1984) it is protected by the local people in this area as it is supposed to bring prosperity to the house by its presence in the vicinity. It is also a common belief in this area that other snakes do not live in the area where the Banded Krait resides. Probably this belief supports the findings of Traill (1895, Editor's note), Evans (1902) and Wall (1903) .

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29. REPLACEMENT NAMES FOR TWO INDIAN SPECIES OF
PHILAUTUS (ANURA: RHACOPHORIDAE)

Rao (1937) described 8 new species of *Philautus* from southern India, but none of his materials are available for study. Probably, the types of all the new species have already been lost. However, the names of two of the species out of eight *Philautus* described as new by Rao (1937), are found to be pre-

occupied. So I provide here replacement names for the two species.

***Philautus crnri* nom. nov.**

Original name : *Philautus longicrus* Rao, 1937.

Type locality: Kempholey, Hassan (Mysore).

The name *Philautus longicrus* has already been preoccupied by *Ixalus* (= *Philautus*) *longicrus* which has been described by Boulenger (1894) from Palawan, Borneo.

ETYMOLOGY

The new name has been given after C. R. N. Rao, for his contributions to Indian Herpetology.

Philautus hassanensis nom. nov.

Original name: *Philautus montanus* Rao,

1937.

Type locality: Hills of Kempholey, Hassan (Mysore).

This species has also been preoccupied by *Philautus montanus* described by Taylor, 1920 from the Mount Bongao, Bongao Island, Sulu Archipelago (Philippines).

ETYMOLOGY

The new name has been given after Hassan, which is the type locality of this species.

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30. NOTES ON THE CORRECT SPELLING OF THE INDIAN
BULL FROG, *RANA TIGERINA* DAUDIN

There is considerable confusion regarding the correct nomenclature of the Indian bull frog. In most of the scientific publications on this species, it has been referred as *Rana tigrina*. But, Daudin (1803a, 1803b) used *tigerina* in the original description of the species. Merrem (1820) for some reason changed the spelling to *tigrina*. Boulenger (1882) followed the misspelling, *tigrina* as provided by Merrem (1820). Most of the workers after Boulenger (1882, 1890 and 1920), followed the misspelling, *tigrina*, because perhaps Boulenger's publications were

readily available for reference to most of the Indian biologists who were working on different biological aspects of *Rana tigrina*. As *Rana tigrina* is one of the laboratory animals used by most Indian biologists for experimental purposes, we find innumerable publications on this species dealing with different aspects of scientific investigations, but most of the workers are not aware about the correct spelling given by Daudin (1803). Even most of the systematic publications on the Indian amphibians contain the wrong spelling, *Rana tigrina*.